

HOUSE RESOLUTION 20

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Roger E. West of Oneida.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Roger E. West; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West was an exemplary gentleman and astute businessman who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of William E. "Champ" and Wilma West, Roger West was a businessman for more than sixty years; in the late 1950s, he co-founded West Coal Corporation alongside his future father-in-law and future brother-in-law; and

WHEREAS, West Coal Corporation was the largest coal company in Tennessee and a major supplier of utility grade coal to utility companies in the southeastern United States, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, Florida Power and Light, and Carolina Power and Light; at its peak, the company operated eleven deep mines and two surface mines and employed nearly 800 workers; and

WHEREAS, the former president of Facts About Coal in Tennessee, Mr. West served as general manager for Rudy Resources, an oil and gas producer based in Atmore, Alabama; he also served as a majority shareholder in First Trust and Savings Bank of Oneida; and

WHEREAS, as one of his final business ventures, he invested in Jewelry Television, a home shopping network based in Knoxville that specializes in jewelry and gemstones; and

WHEREAS, Roger West was an active and devout member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon and trustee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Roger West enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty years, Rose Baldwin West, and their children, R. Gregory (Lisa) West, Chris West, and Miche Rose; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his grandchildren, Matthew (Melissa) West, Tyler (Alison) West, Stacia West, Dylan (Kayci) West, Pyper West, Dannon West, Lucas West and fiancée Cydney White, Dallas (Sara) West, Mallory Delk, Chaya Rose, and Bristol Rose; great-grandchildren, Brody West, Brielle West, Sullivan West, Ada Bell West, and Ancil West; and siblings, Colleen (Buford) Lay, Joan Keeton, Mac West, Frank (Rebecca) West, and Jim (Yvonne) West; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his brother-in-law and former business partner, Jack E. (Sharon) Lay, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of other family members; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, his father-in-law and former business partner, Hubert Baldwin, and his mother-in-law, Alma Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, Roger West leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Roger E. West, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. West.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.